

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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CODEL EILBERG, FOR AMBASSADOR FROM KRIZEK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (EILBERG, JOSHUA)

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN EILBERG TO THE SECRETARY

FOLLOWING IS LETTER WHICH CHAIRMAN EILBERG HAS SENT TO THE
SECRETARY AUGUST 22, 1977:

BEGIN QUOTE: HONORABLE CYRUS R. VANCE, SECRETARY OF STATE,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D. C., DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

DURING MY RECENT TRIP TO ROMANIA, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF
CONSULTING AT LENGTH WITH OUR AMBASSADOR, THE HONORABLE
HARRY G. BARNES, ON SEVERAL IMMIGRATION-RELATED PROBLEMS.

ONE PROBLEM THAT I FOUND PARTICULARLY DISTURBING IS THE
DELAY IN VISA ISSUANCE TO THOSE ROMANIANS WHO ARE GRANTED
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EXIT DOCUMENTATION BY ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES. IT IS MY
UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS DELAY IS DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO
THE CURRENT ALLOCATION PROCEDURES FOR NONPREFERENCE VISAS.

AS A RESULT, THERE ARE PRESENTLY SOME 75 CASES--PRIMARILY
FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES--WHERE EXIT VISAS HAVE BEEN
GRANTED BUT DUE TO THE AFORE-MENTIONED SITUATION THESE

INDIVIDUALS CANNOT IMMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES IN A
TIMELY FASHION.

IT IS INDEED IRONICAL THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MAKES
EVERY EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE THE GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA TO
REMOVE EMMIGRATION BARRIERS, BUT AT THE SAME TIME OUR
CURRENT PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES PRECLUDE US FROM
ACCOMMODATING THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO LEAVE
THAT COUNTRY.

IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUS NATURE OF THIS PROBLEM AND BECAUSE
OF MY DEEP CONCERN FOR REUNITING FAMILIES AND PROMOTING
FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, I WOULD URGE YOUR IMMEDIATE, PERSONAL
REVIEW OF THIS SITUATION.

AS I HAVE NOTED, I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH
AMBASSADOR BARNES AND AS A RESULT OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS,
I BELIEVE THAT ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS ARE
REQUIRED IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THE SHORT-TERM PROBLEM (THE
PENDING CASES) AND THE LONG-TERM PROBLEM OF FACILITATING
ROMANIAN EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES.

WITH REGARD TO THE SHORT-TERM PROBLEM, AMBASSADOR BARNES
AND I AGREED THAT OUR GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE SPECIAL
OR PRIORITY CONSIDERATION TO ROMANIAN EMIGRATION CASES.
IN FACT, I WOULD REQUEST YOU TO CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY
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OF MAKING A SPECIAL ALLOCATION OF NONPREFERENCE VISAS TO
THOSE ROMANIANS WHO HAVE EXIT VISAS BUT WHO ARE NOT ABLE
TO QUALIFY UNDER ANY OF THE RELATIVE OR LABOR PREFERENCE
CATEGORIES. IT IS, OF COURSE, ASSUMED THAT THESE
INDIVIDUALS WOULD BE "OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE" UNDER THE
PROVISIONS OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.

I AM AWARE THAT SUCH VISAS ARE ISSUED ON A "FIRST-COME,
FIRST-SERVED" BASIS. HOWEVER, I WOULD REQUEST THAT AN
EXCEPTION, IF NECESSARY, BE MADE IN THESE CASES BECAUSE
OF THE UNIQUE INTEREST OF OUR COUNTRY IN ROMANIAN
EMIGRATION. IN ADDITION, ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION OF THIS
NATURE (IF DETERMINED TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE
IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT) WOULD ELIMINATE A SOURCE
OF POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT TO THE UNITED STATES AT THE
UPCOMING CSCE CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE.

IF SUCH A PROCEDURE IS NOT POSSIBLE OR LEGALLY
PERMISSIBLE, I WOULD URGE YOU TO EXPLORE A VARIETY OF
ALTERNATIVE METHODS THAT WOULD SERVE TO FACILITATE THE
EMMIGRATION OF ROMANIANS AND TO EXPEDITE THEIR ADMISSION
TO THE UNITED STATES.

CONCERNING THE GENERAL, LONG-TERM PROBLEM, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY STRONG SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPING AND/OR CONSIDERING ANY LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL THAT WOULD EXPEDITE THE IMMIGRATION OF ROMANIANS TO THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY WHEN WE CONSIDER THAT ROMANIAN EMIGRATION IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO OUR TRADE RELATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY. IN THIS REGARD, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING A LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL; AND I CAN ASSURE YOU OF MY DEEP INTEREST IN PROMPTLY PROCESSING SUCH A PROPOSAL, IN THE EVENT OF ITS SUBMISSION TO THE CONGRESS.

FINALLY, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONSULT WITH MY
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SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF IN DEVELOPING ANY APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATIVE OR LEGISLATIVE APPROACHES TO THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM.

SINCERELY, JOSHUA EILBERG, CHAIRMAN; SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP, AND INTERNATIONAL LAW; COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY. END QUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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